THOMAS M. O'CONNOR (TO 5247) BRODY, O'CONNOR & O'CONNOR, ESQS. Attorneys for Defendant 7 Bayview Avenue Northport, New York 11768 (631) 261-7778

WM 18-152 PC UNITED STATES DISTRICT CO SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW		
JACELL GIBSON,	X	Docket No.:
	Plaintiff,	
-against-		NOTICE OF REMOVAL
SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423 and	SAM'S EAST, INC.,	
_	Defendants.	

TO THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK:

Defendant, SAM'S EAST, INC. i/s/h/a "SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423 and SAM'S EAST, INC.", for the removal of this action from the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of ORANGE to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, respectfully shows this Honorable Court:

FIRST: Defendant, SAM'S EAST, INC., is a defendant in a Civil action brought against it in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of ORANGE, entitled:

WM 18-152 PO
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF ORANGE
-----X
JACELL GIBSON,

Plaintiff,

-against-

SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423 and SAM'S EAST, INC.,

Defendants.

Copies of the Summons, the Complaint, and SAM'S EAST, INC.'s Answer are annexed hereto as Exhibit A.

Index No.: EF001665/18

SECOND: That this action seeks recovery for damages sustained as a result of personal injuries allegedly suffered by the plaintiff while on the defendant's premises.

THIRD: The grounds for removal are that this Court has original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 § 1332(a)(1). The amount in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interests and costs, and is between citizens of different States. Annexed hereto as Exhibit B is defendant's CPLR 3017(c) demand. On January 18, 2019 we received a verbal indication from the plaintiff's attorney that they would not cap damages below \$75,000.00.

FOURTH: The defendant, SAM'S EAST, INC., is a Delaware limited partnership with its corporate headquarters and principal place of business in Arkansas. WSE Investment, LLC, is the limited partner of SAM'S EAST, INC., and WSE Management, LLC is the General Partner. Both are Delaware companies with their principal places of business in Arkansas. The sole member of both limited liability companies is Wal-Mart Stores East, Inc. Wal-Mart Stores East, Inc. is a citizen of Arkansas. It is incorporated in Arkansas and its principal place of business is in Arkansas.

Thus, for diversity purposes, the defendant is a citizen of Arkansas. See Carden v. Arkoma Assocs., 494 U.S. 185, 195-96, 110 S.Ct. 1015, 108 L.Ed.2d 157 (1990) (stating that, for purposes of diversity jurisdiction, limited partnerships have the citizenship of each of its general and limited partners); Cosgrove v. Bartolotta, 150 F.3d 729, 731 (7th Cir.1998) (stating that, for purposes of diversity jurisdiction, a limited liability company has the citizenship of its members).

FIFTH: That upon information and belief Plaintiff is a citizen of the State of New York, County of ORANGE.

SIXTH: In that this action is between citizens of different states and seeks damages in excess of \$75,000.00, than pursuant to 28 U.S.C.A. § 1332 and 28 U.S.C.A. § 1441 and § 1446 the case should be removed from the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of ORANGE to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Dated: Northport, New York January 21, 2019

Yours, etc.

BRODY, O'CONNOR & O'CONNOR, ESQS. Attorneys for Defendant

By:

THOMAS M. O'CONNOR (TO 5247)

Attorneys for Defendant

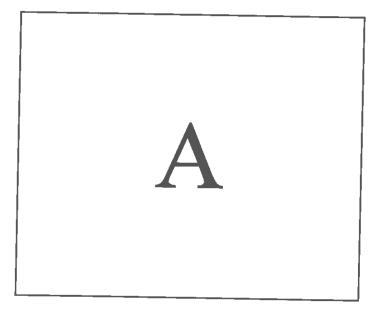
7 Bayview Avenue

Northport, New York 11768

(631) 261-7778

TO: SOBO & SOBO, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
One Dolson Avenue
Middletown, New York 10940
(845) 343-0466

Exhibit



FILED: ORANGE COUNTY CLERK 02/09/2018 11:39 AM

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. EF001665-2018

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 02/09/2018

Date of Filing:

Index #:

Plaintiff designates Orange County as the place of trial.

The basis of venue is the Plaintiff's residence address.

Plaintiff resides at 80 Grand Ave. Middletown NY 10940

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK **COUNTY OF ORANGE**

JACELL GIBSON,

Plaintiff.

SUMMONS

-against-

SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423 and SAM'S EAST, INC.,

Defendants.

To the above-named defendants:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED, to answer the complaint in served with this summons, to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to the plaintiff's attorneys within - 20- days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

SOBO & SOBO, LLP

Alexander Tesoriero, ESO. Attorneys for Plaintiff One Dolson Avenue Middletown, NY 10940

(845) 343-0466

Dated: Terruary Middletown, New York

Defendants' addresses: See Complaint

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RECEIVED NYSCEF: 02/09/2018

SUPREME COURT OF THE ST	TATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF ORANGE	
	X
JACELL GIBSON.	

Plaintiff,

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

-against-

Index No.:

SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423 and SAM'S EAST, INC.,

Defendants.	
ر ر منه شاخله با مع و مدیر باده در در خود به روسه و روسه و مع در شاه و به خود مو مو مو موم و ما این در مو و در مو	X

Plaintiff, JACELL GIBSON, by her attorneys, SOBO & SOBO, L.L.P., as and for the Verified Complaint, herein alleges the following:

- 1. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the plaintiff was and still is a resident of the County of Orange, State of New York.
- 2. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423, was and still is a domestic corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the Laws of the State of New York.
- 3. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423, was and still is a foreign corporation duly authorized to do business within the State of New York.
- 4. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423, was and still is a business entity doing business within the State of New York.

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RECEIVED NYSCEF: 02/09/2018

- 5. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S EAST, INC., was and still is a domestic corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the Laws of the State of New York.
- 6. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S EAST, INC., was and still is a foreign corporation doing business within the State of New York.
- 7. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S EAST, INC., was and still is a business entity doing business within the State of New York.
- 8. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423, was the owner of a certain premises located at 300 North Galleria Drive, Middletown, New York, County of Orange, State of New York, known as "Sam's Club."
- 9. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423, maintained the aforesaid premises.
- 10. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423, managed the aforesaid premises.
- 11. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423, controlled the aforesaid premises.
- 12. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423, operated the aforesaid premises.
- 13. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423, was the lessee of the aforesaid premises.

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14. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423, was the lessor of the aforesaid premises.

- 15. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S EAST, INC., was the owner of certain premises located at 300 North Galleria Drive, Middletown, New York, County of Orange, State of New York, known as "Sam's Club."
- 16. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S EAST, INC., maintained the aforesaid premises.
- 17. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S EAST, INC., managed the aforesaid premises.
- 18. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S EAST, INC., controlled the aforesaid premises.
- 19. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S EAST, INC., operated the aforesaid premises.
- 20. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S EAST, INC., was the lessee of the aforesaid premises.
- 21. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, upon information and belief, the defendant, SAM'S EAST, INC., was the lessor of the aforesaid premises.
- 22. That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the floor, located on the aforesaid premises was the situs of the within accident.
- 23. That on or about the 25th day of November, 2015, while this plaintiff was lawfully upon the aforesaid premises, she was caused to be precipitated to the ground, thereby sustaining severe and serious personal injuries.

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24. The negligent, wanton, reckless and careless acts of the defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees were a cause of the accident and resultant injuries.

- 25. That the defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees were negligent, wanton, reckless and careless in, among other things, allowing, causing and/or permitting dangerous, hazardous, slippery and/or unsafe conditions to exist on the aforesaid premises; in acting with reckless disregard for the safety of others, and the defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees were in other ways negligent, wanton, reckless and careless.
- 26. That the defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees had actual and/or constructive notice of the dangerous and/or defective conditions in that the conditions existed for a sufficient length of time prior to the happening of the incident and in the exercise of reasonable care, the defendants could have and should have had knowledge and notice thereof and further, the defendants, their agents, servants and/or employees created said condition.
- 27. The limited liability provisions of CPLR 1601 do not apply pursuant to the exceptions of CPLR 1602, including, but not limited to, 1602(2)(iv), 1602(7) and 1602(11).
- 28. That by reason of the foregoing, this plaintiff was caused to sustain severe and serious personal injuries to her mind and body, some of which, upon information and belief, are permanent with permanent effects of pain, disability, disfigurement and loss of body function. Further, this plaintiff was caused to expend and become obligated for diverse sums of money for the purpose of obtaining medical care and/or cure in an effort to alleviate the suffering and ills sustained as a result of this accident; the plaintiff further

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was caused to lose substantial periods of time from her normal vocation and activities, and upon information and belief, may continue in that way into the future and suffer similar losses.

29. That by reason of the foregoing, this plaintiff has been damaged in a sum that exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction of this matter.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against the defendants, and each of them, as follows:

A sum that exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction in this matter, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

DATED: February 8th , 2018

Alexander Tesoriero, ESC SOBO & SOBO, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff One Dolson Avenue Middletown, NY 10940 (845) 343-7626

TO: SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423 C/O DEFENDANT IN PERSON 300 NORTH GALLERIA DRIVE MIDDLETOWN, NY 10941

> SAM'S EAST, INC., C/O SECRETARY OF STATE ALBANY, NY 12260

Case 7:19-cv-00603-VB Document 1 Filed 01/22/19 Page 11 of 23

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VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF ORANGE

SS:

JACELL GIBSON, being duly sworn says; I am the plaintiff in the action herein; I have read the annexed Verified Complaint, know the contents thereof and the same are true to my knowledge, except those matters therein which are stated to be alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

Sworn to before me on this

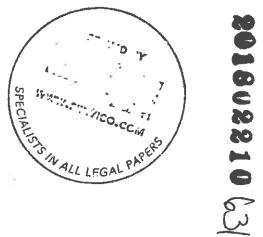
V Comply Legisland 2018

NOTARY PUBLIC

VERONICA M. WESLEY
Notary Public. State of New York
Cutified in Orange County
Registration No. 0:WE6975427
Commission Expires June 3, 20

0000000

(A)



Index No.: EF001665/18
VERIFIED ANSWER

The defendant, SAM'S EAST, INC. i/s/h/a "SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423 and SAM'S EAST, INC.", by its attorneys, BRODY, O'CONNOR & O'CONNOR, ESQS., answering the Verified Complaint herein states upon information and belief:

FIRST: Defendant denies having knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations set forth in paragraph marked "1", and each and every part thereof.

SECOND: Defendant denies the allegations set forth in paragraphs marked "2", "3", "4", "5", "6", and "7", except admits that SAM'S EAST, INC. is a foreign corporation registered to do and doing business in the State of New York.

THIRD: Defendant denies the allegations set forth in paragraphs marked "8", "9", "10", "11", "12", "13", "14", "15", "16", "17", "18", "19", "20", and "21", except admits that SAM'S EAST, INC. is a sublessee of the premises and is the operator of the Middletown Sam's Club, leaving all other questions to the court.

FOURTH: Defendant denies having knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations set forth in paragraphs marked "22", and "23", and each and every part thereof.

FIFTH: Defendant denies the allegations set forth in paragraphs marked "24", "25", and "26", and each and every part thereof.

SIXTH: Defendant denies the allegations set forth in paragraph marked "27", and respectfully refers all questions of law to the trial Court.

SEVENTH: Defendant denies having knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations set forth in paragraphs marked "28", and "29", and each and every part thereof.

AS AND FOR A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

EIGHTH: The plaintiff was guilty of culpable conduct, including contributory negligence and/or assumption of risk, and should an award be made to plaintiff, same should be diminished in the proportion which the culpable conduct and/or contributory negligence and/or assumption of risk attributable to the plaintiff bears to the culpable conduct and/or negligence which caused the damages.

AS AND FOR A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

NINTH: In the event that plaintiff recovers judgment against this answering defendant and it is determined that plaintiff's damages were caused in whole or in part by two or more joint tortfeasors, then defendant's liability herein for non-economic loss may not exceed its equitable share of said damages in accordance with its relative culpability, as provided by Section 1601 of the CPLR.

AS AND FOR A THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

TENTH: Plaintiff's recovery, if any, shall be reduced by the amount of any collateral payments received, in accordance with CPLR Section 4545.

WHEREFORE, defendant, SAM'S EAST, INC. i/s/h/a "SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423 and SAM'S EAST, INC., requests judgment dismissing the Complaint herein, together with costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: Northport, New York March 2, 2018

Yours, etc.

BRODY, O'CONNOR & O'CONNOR, ESQS. Attorneys for Defendant

By:

PATRICIA A. O'CONNOR

7 Bayview Avenue

Northport, New York 11768

(631) 261-7778

File No.: WM 18-152 PO

TO: SOBO & SOBO, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
One Dolson Avenue
Middletown, New York 10940
(845) 343-0466

AFFIRMATION BY ATTORNEY

The undersigned, an attorney admitted to practice in the Courts of the State of New

York, shows:

That affirmant is the attorney for the defendant in the within action; that affirmant has

read the foregoing Verified Answer and knows the contents thereof; that the same is true to the

affirmant's knowledge, except as to the matters therein stated to be alleged on information and

belief; and that as to those matters, affirmant believes it to be true.

Affirmant further says that the reason this Verification is made by deponent and not

by the defendant is that defendant is a foreign corporation.

The grounds of belief as to all matters not stated upon deponent's knowledge are

documents, correspondence and records maintained in your deponent's files and conversations and

conferences had with the defendant.

The undersigned affirms that the foregoing statements are true under the penalties of

perjury.

Dated: Northport, New York

March 2, 2018

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)) ss:)
DEBRA SAN	ACORA, being duly sworn, deposes and says:
That your depeat Ronkonkoma, New York.	onent is not a party to this action, is over 18 years of age and resides
That on the \ ANSWER and AFFIRMATION	day of March, 2018, deponent served the within VERIFIED ON BY ATTORNEY
UPON:	
SOBO & SOB Attorneys for F One Dolson Av Middletown, N (845) 343-0466	Plaintiff venue Iew York 10940
	signated by said attorney for that purpose by depositing a true copy of perly addressed wrapper, in an official depository under the exclusive States Post Office Department within the State of New York. DEBRA SANACORA
Sworn to before me this 5 Hay of March, 2018.	
NOTARY PUBLIC	PATRICIA A. O'CONNOR NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF NEW YORK No. 020C6028806 Qualified in Suffolk County My Commission Expires 06-06-

ALL-STATE LEGAL® 07181-BF - 07182-BL - 07183-GY - 07184-WH 900-222-0510 www.cstcael.com

Index No. EF001665/18

Year 20

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF ORANGE

JACELL GIBSON.

Plaintiff.

-against-

SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423 and SAM'S EAST, INC.,

Defendants

VERIFIED ANSWER and AFFIRMATION BY ATTORNEY

BRODY, O'CONNOR & O'CONNOR, ESQS.

Attorneys for

Defendant/SAM'S EAST, INC.

7 BAYVIEW AVENUE NORTHPORT, NEW YORK 11768 (631) 261-7778 FAX (631) 261-6411

Pursuant to 22 NYCRR 130-1.1-a, the undersigned, an attorney admitted to practice in the courts of New York State, certifies that, upon information and belief and reasonable inquiry, (1) the contentions contained in the annexed document are not frivolous and that (2) if the annexed document is an initiating pleading, (i) the matter was not obtained through illegal conduct, or that if it was, the attorney or other persons responsible for the illegal conduct are al

claims for	personal injury or wrong	haring in any fee earne ful death, the matter we	ed therefrom an as not obtained	d that (ii) if the matter in violation of 22 NVCD	involves potenti
Dated:		Signature	163-vzzedným (dándh naddádnádi) - 1886		R 1200.41-a.
Charles of the Same	Commence of the second	Print Signer's Na	me,		
Service of	a copy of the within				hereby admitte
Dated:					or oug wanterie
		Attor	ney(s) for	····	*
PLEASE !	TAKE NOTICE				
ele go	that the within is a (ce	ertified) true copy of a			
NOTICE OF ENTRY	entered in the office of	the clerk of the within	-named Court	on	20
NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT	that an Order of which Hon. at	the within is a true c	opy will be pre , one of the j	sented for settlement to udges of the within-nam	the ned Court,
	on	20	, at	M.	
Dated:					

Exhibit

В

WM 18-152 PO SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF ORANGE	
JACELL GIBSON,	Index No.: EF001665/18
Plaintiff,	
-against-	DEMAND PURSUANT TO CPLR 3017(c)
SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423 and SAM'S EAST, INC.,	
Defendants.	
COUNSELLORS:	

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that defendant hereby demands that plaintiff set forth the total damages to which she deems herself entitled within fifteen days of this demand pursuant to CPLR 3017(c).

Dated: Northport, New York March 2, 2018

Yours, etc.

BRODY, O'CONNOR & O'CONNOR, ESQS. Attorneys for Defendant

By:

PATRICIA A. O'CONNOR 7 Bayview Avenue

Northport, New York 11768

(631) 261-7778

File No.: WM 18-152 PO

TO: SOBO & SOBO, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
One Dolson Avenue
Middletown, New York 10940
(845) 343-0466

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

STATE OF NEW YORK)) ss: COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)
DEBRA SANACORA, being duly sworn, deposes and says:
That your deponent is not a party to this action, is over 18 years of age and resides at Ronkonkoma, New York.
That on the 5 day of March, 2018, deponent served the within DEMAND PURSUANT TO CPLR 3017(c)
UPON:
SOBO & SOBO, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff One Dolson Avenue Middletown, New York 10940 (845) 343-0466
The address designated by said attorney for that purpose by depositing a true copy of same enclosed in a postpaid properly addressed wrapper, in an official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Post Office Department within the State of New York.
DEBRA SANACORA
Sworn to before me this 513 day of March, 2018.
PATRICIA A, O'CONNOR NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF NEW YORK

No. 020C6028806
Qualified in Suffolk County
My Commission Expires 06-06-

NOTARY PUBLIC

07181-BF - 07182-BL - 07182-GY - 07184-WH 800-222-0610 WWW.astopat.com

Index No. EF001665/18

Year 20

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF ORANGE

JACELL GIBSON.

Plaintiff,

-against-

SAM'S CLUB STORE #6423 and SAM'S EAST. INC.,

Defendants.

DEMAND PURSUANT TO CPLR 3017(c)

BRODY, O'CONNOR & O'CONNOR, ESQS.

Attorneys for

Defendant/SAM'S EAST, INC.

7 BAYVIEW AVENUE NORTHPORT, NEW YORK 11768 (631) 261-7778 FAX (631) 261-6411

Pursuant to 22 NYCRR 130-1.1-a, the undersigned, an attorney admitted to practice in the courts of New York State, certifies that, upon information and belief and reasonable inquiry, (1) the contentions contained in the annexed document are not frivolous and that (2) if the annexed document is an initiating pleading, (i) the matter was not obtained through illegal conduct, or that if it was, the attorney or other persons responsible for the illegal conduct are not participating in the matter or sharing in any fee earned therefrom and that (ii) if the matter involves potential claims for personal injury or wrongful death, the matter was not obtained in violation of 22 NYCRR 1200.41-a.

Dated:

Signature

Print Signer's Name.

Service of a copy of the within

is hereby admitted.

Dated:

Dated: Attorney(s) for PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the within is a (certified) true copy of a Check Applicable entered in the office of the clerk of the within-named Court on NOTICE OF ENTRY 20 that an Order of which the within is a true copy will be presented for settlement to the NOTICE OF , one of the judges of the within-named Court, SETTLEMENT at on 20 , at M.

Dated:

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)

KATELYN OLSEN, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That your deponent is not a party to this action, is over 18 years of age and resides at Greenlawn, New York.

That on the 22nd day of January, 2019, deponent served the within NOTICE OF

UPON:

REMOVAL

SOBO & SOBO, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff One Dolson Avenue Middletown, New York 10940 (845) 343-0466

The address designated by said attorney for that purpose by depositing a true copy of same enclosed in a postpaid properly addressed wrapper, in an official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Post Office Department within the State of New York.

Sworn to before me this

day of January, 2019

DEBRA SANACORA NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF NEW YORK No. 01\$A6174321 Qualified in Suffolk County

My Commission Exprises Temperature 7, 20